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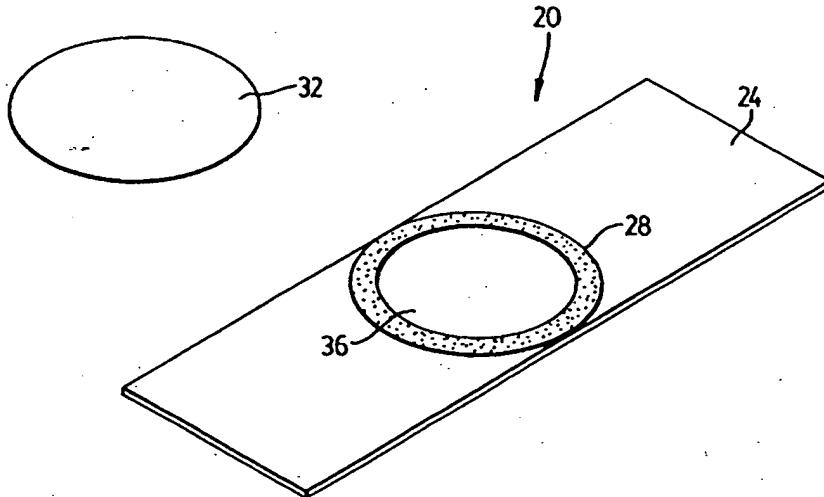
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):	NORTHERN EDGE ASSOCIATES INC. [CA/CA]; P.O. Box 23, Bolton, Ontario L7E 5T1 (CA).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(72) Inventor; and			Published
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):	RICHARDSON, Timothy, M. [CA/CA]; 16 Matson Drive, Bolton, Ontario L7E 5R8 (CA).		With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.
(74) Agents:	STRATTON, Robert, P. et al.; Gowling, Strathy & Henderson, Suite 4900, Commerce Court West, Toronto, Ontario M5L 1J3 (CA).		

(54) Title: MICROSCOPE SLIDE SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract

A slide system allowing rapid, sterile, clean and safe preparation and use of microscope slides containing sample materials including living and/or hazardous preparations or samples. In one embodiment, the system comprises a slide base and cover slip which are preferably precleaned and supplied in a sterile wrapper. The cover slip, slide base or both have an adhesive coating that surrounds a sample area to adhere the cover slip to the slide base, thereby creating a sealed sample area or chamber that is defined by the slide, the cover slip, and the adhesive. In another embodiment, the slide base has one or two grooves or depressions in the surface of the slide base positioned within the sample area, the grooves or depressions accommodating extra or expanding sample material to prevent loss of the sample material into the environment and prevent damage to the adhesive and/or cover slip. A layer of an active element, such as a neutralizing compound, can be provided to neutralize sample materials before they escape past the adhesive. The wrapper is designed to facilitate easy handling and to permit convenient and easy mounting of sample material into the slide.